

Assignment title: Portfolio- two tasks

Module: introduction to health and
social care

Module code: LCHS4003

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TASK 2: (approx.) 600- word essay

- Discuss the origins of the national health service (NHS), exploring the historical context and key principles that led to its establishment. Critically examine the current structure of the NHS and its functioning.

Introduction (approx.100words)

-This essay will break down the question in sections by first discussing the origins of the national health service (NHS). The essay will start to explore the historical context and key principles that led to its establishment providing academic sources and references to support my research. The essay will critically examine the current structure of the NHS and its functioning and provide clear information for this question. This essay aims to explore the evolution of the NHS the challenges and the strengths to also give a better understanding to the issues the workers and public have faced throughout the years.

- The national health service (NHS) was initially brought out to provide every member of the public within the UK free health care for those who need it.

The NHS was founded in 1948 as part of the post war welfare state which included services such as education, housing, income security and for those who may be old, young, ill and unemployed. According to the history.blog.gov.uk blog history of government. This was a big for the public because it had given everyone an opportunity to access free medical attention when needed. But what we're going to focus on is the history behind the NHS which led to its establishment. Between 1939 and 1945, the Second World War sadly caused millions to die which created hardships throughout out the country (en.wikipedia.org World War II casualties). Survivors faced food rationing that continued long after the war along with destruction of millions of homes and places of work forcing families to try and rebuild a life. The inter war years was a time where the economic sate of the UK was at an all-time low and social depression, there had been no help from the state provisions, during this time Winston Churchill former conservative Prime minister and former Labour Party clement leader realized the need for post war reconstructions. Luckily the government planned for this, 1942 Beveridge report this identified five giants that had to be dealt with for the country to better economically and socially. The five giants consisted of diseases, want, ignorance idleness and squalor.

December 2nd, 1942, the report had been published and instantly became a best seller in the country and abroad, this report received support throughout the political spectrum.

In 1945, the Labour Party led by Attlee achieved a victory in the election, this win meant that Attlee and his government could start building a welfare state with the NHS as a central part of it. Around this time the king's speech had travelled across the UK the speech outlined establishing a national health service as well as many other significant things. Although this was a big achievement, during the Second World War health insurance had been extended but only just covered half of the population which did not include dental, hospital and specialist services or hearing services.

In the same year in October Bevan (Aneurin Bevan) Was determined to make his vision for a national health service become a reality. Prime minister Attlee gave Bevan the approval, this had meant provisions would include hospital care, ambulance services, GP's etc. This turned the NHS from principle to policy and required structural change plus negotiations with medical professionals, local authorities etc. How the government would fund this was a huge concern.

The 1956 national insurance act stated working age people (except married women) had to contribute to funding the welfare state. Attlee prioritized passing this foundation bill realizing its financial cost and its historical importance, meanwhile the national health service act which took effect in 1948 July 5th brought over 2,600 hospitals under NHS control making a major step establishing universal healthcare in England and Wales.

Task 2: (approx.) 900-word poster

What is dentistry?

- Dentistry services provide a range of surgical and medical treatments to keep your mouth, teeth, and gums clean and healthy.
- This also plays a key role with maintaining the overall health as oral problems can sometimes affect the other parts of the body such as the heart and the digestive system.
- Dentists also educate patients about their oral care like brushing, flossing and diet as their job and as many may not know this.
- They also detect problems such as cavities, gum disease and oral infections.

Private dental services -

- They offer extended appointments, cosmetic treatments, teeth whitening, veneers and way shorter waiting times
- The price is a lot higher but provide a more flexibility access to modern technology

Community and specialist dental care -

- Specialist teams help people who seek extra attention such individuals with disabilities, severe anxiety and long-term medical conditions
(<https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/special-care-dentistry>)
- Community dental services also provide school screenings and oral health education programs

Dental Teams-

- Dentists- diagnose individuals that need it and treat oral health problems
- Dental hygienist – prevention and patient education
- Dental nurses- help, assist and maintain safety standards during any procedures
- Dental technicians – create dentures and crowns
- Reception staff- make and file appointments and patient records

Why does dentistry matter

- Oral health and general health are not separate for example gum disease is linked to diabetes and heart disease
(<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6470716>) having access to good

dental services can help reduce hospital admissions for tooth decay which is one of the most reasons for children's hospital admissions in the UK.

- Oral health is directly linked to general health. For example, having poor dental health could lead to infections that spread i.e. gum disease can lead to heart disease, diabetes or even stroke.
- It boosts confidence and appearance as a healthy smile can improve self-esteem or even professional impressions.
- Healthy teeth are essential for chewing and speaking and without that it could limit what you eat and how you communicate
- Preventive care is considerably cheaper than treating advanced problems such as root canals or tooth replacements.

Challenges within the services

- Long waiting times - this issue is mainly linked to workforce shortages, funding pressures and increasing demand. This issue seems to be very common with not just dental care but all types of medical care
- Families travel long distances or may result in turning up to emergency departments for dental pain putting more strain on hospitals
- This has also meant an increase of people's reliance on private dental care and self-treatments at home which can be very dangerous
- Big issues with adults and children with complex needs must wait longer for treatment and access to specialist (www.bda.org)
- Dental care can be very expensive particularly braces and implants. This often discourages people from seeking care until the problem becomes severe
- Due to dentistry constantly evolving with new tools, techniques equipment and professional development, which not all clinics can afford

Rising costs:

With the rise of cost of living and becoming expensive it's not only affecting patient's incomes and expenses but the rising cost with dental care. Some patients go as far to ignore the problems until it becomes an emergency. Many people delay or skip check-ups.

Dental also deal with higher costs for materials, staff, energy.

Impact- decline in prevention care uptake

Help improve the services

- More training for dental professionals
- digital access- more online appointment systems
- Ensure fair funding so more dentists can remain and work in the NHS
- Public awareness - raising awareness by creating campaigns on diets, posters to reduce the prevention

The brief history of the service:

- Dentistry is one of the oldest professions tracing back to 7000 B.C. (www.adea.org) the transition from brutal tooth pulling to how the service is now provided is truly remarkable.
- Hesy- Re an Egyptian scribe was recognized to be one of the first practitioners around 2600 B.C.
- Jhon Baker the first dentist in the USA and his first student to train was male named Paul Revere who coincidentally was famous for warning colonial troops the British were coming. In
- the early beginnings in Greece and Rome two men Hippocrates and Aristotle who were philosophers in their time had discussed methods for treating dental diseases and stabilizing loose teeth
- Ancient Roman's used to preform tooth extractions using forceps, brushed their teeth with every single day with rough paste made from seashells, hooves, eggshells, pumice and ash(<https://www.essencedental.co.uk/the-history-dentistry>)
- Dental services today now use digital x rays, 3D printing and preventive community programs.

As we know dental services important part of public health helping and supporting individuals throughout their lives starting from early childhood to elderly oral care. They have gone from being a luxury service to an essential service, this has obviously impacted a lot of people in a good way. But access and financial pressure still seem to remain major obstacles, it would help to address the challenges being faced and collaboration between the NHS, government, dental professionals and communities.

By acknowledging these issues dental services can continue to ensure healthy smiles and healthier lives for all.

